

L-00000D-08-0330-00138



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ORIGINAL

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Investigator: Guadalupe Ortiz

Phone: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

Priority: Respond Within Five Days

Opinion No. 2008 - 73567

Date: 12/2/2008

Complaint Description: 08A Rate Case Items - Opposed
N/A Not Applicable

First:

Last:

Complaint By:

Troy

Hunter

Account Name:

Troy Hunter

Home: [REDACTED]

Street:

[REDACTED]

Work:

City:

Wickenburg

CBR:

State:

AZ

Zip: [REDACTED]

is:

Utility Company.

Arizona Public Service Company

Division:

Electric

Contact Name:

[REDACTED]

Contact Phone: [REDACTED]

Nature of Complaint:

Email Received:

RE: Docket No. L-00000D-08-0330-00138

Subject: Public Comment on Line Siting TS5 to TS9

November 25, 2008

Arizona Corporation Commission
Commissioner Wing
1200 West Washington, 2nd Floor
Phoenix, Arizona, 85007
Via E-mail & Registered Letter

Arizona Corporation Commission

DOCKETED

DEC 11 2008

DOCKETED BY

[Signature]

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
RECEIVED
DEC 11 2008

DEC 11 2008

RECEIVED

RE: LINE SITING HEARINGS/ TS5-TS9 TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT/

DOCKET # 138

Dear Commission,

Over the last couple of months, I have been attending the line siting hearings for the proposed APS' TS5 to TS9 500/230 KV Transmission Line through the Northwest Valley. I am concerned that this entire affair is tantamount to a "land grab" by APS, which taxpayers are paying for now and in the future, by way of taxes, legal proceedings and impending rate increases. Furthermore, it appears to me that there is a good deal of collusion on the part of developers and the City of Peoria to place this line to the north along Scenic Highway 74. I am also concerned that by siting this transmission line on Alternate Routes 2 or 3, the environmental and viewshed degradation would destroy some of the last scenic wonders of the Sonoran Upland Region near Phoenix.

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During these hearings, it has been presented by expert witness testimony that (a) APS already has several utility corridors in place that can be utilized for sub-station linkage and future growth, (b) under the current financial circumstances in our nation, it will be many years before upgrades are needed, that (c) the issues of power grid "redundancy" for future disasters and outages are unfounded, and that (d) existing developments along the alternative routes will be severely impacted, as compared to the APS preferred route which would pass through relatively undeveloped lands to the south of SR74. I would like to know how any of this can be justified when hundreds of thousands of tax payers' dollars are being spent on this siting process alone, not to mention the untold millions in land values to be essentially given away to the power company and the untold millions of dollars of existing home values along the proposed power line routes which would be affected?

There are better ways to spend tax dollars, there are many alternatives which haven't been discussed, and most of the public have not been properly notified, by APS or the media, so that there can be a citizenry prepared to weigh the pro's and con's, which provides valuable input. It is wrong to assume that a few peoples' self-interests can prevail over the majority who would not have this project destroy our remaining ecological heritage. Yet, it seems that the only options considered by the concerned parties in these hearings are the worse of several evils, which should be to the greater good of our future, but can hardly be without employing logic, compromise, and the best available technologies.



It is completely premature to be giving away our natural heritage to greedy self-interests, when there are better technologies already in place, such as high voltage UGC (underground cable), DG (distributed generation) and a major paradigm shift in energy production and distribution just on the horizon (reference: "Hydrogen Economy" by Jeremy Rifkin). 230-500 KV lines are going underground all over the U.S., Europe and Japan (reference: Transmission & Distribution World, www.tdworl.com), for the very issues and concerns we are faced with in this case, those of environmental and viewshed degradation, public protest, condemnation proceedings, costly easements and rights of way, weather and other disasters, etc.

The fact that APS itself does not prefer a line next to Scenic Highway 74, that the Arizona Bureau of Land Management and the State Lands Dept. have voiced opposition to it and that this scenic region comes under the protection of the "Auga Fria National Monument/Bradshaw-Harquahala Resource Management Plan and Final E.I.S.", all should point the Line Siting Committee of the Arizona Corporation Commission toward a resounding "NO" to this siting application. Our Sonoran Desert is under seige from the insane population growth of Phoenix, losing thousands of acres per month, and at some point we must say "NO" to special development interests and protect the remaining and most critical desert habitats.

On behalf of "Friends of the Sonoran Upland" and many other environmental organizations statewide, I respectfully urge you to guide this process into the most reasonable outcome, that of protecting some of our last scenic desert lands for future posterity. Though I believe strongly in diplomacy, we plan to employ every legal resource at our disposal to stop this power line near Scenic Highway 74, and I suspect that many more public and private dollars will be spent over this case in the future. Please explore all options before your commission approves this line siting.

Respectfully,

Troy Hunter
Friends of the Sonoran Upland


Wickenburg, AZ 
troy.hntr@gmail.com

CC: Federal, State and Local Agencies & Governments, Environmental Groups, Media Outlets and Development Co.'s
End of Complaint

Utilities' Response:

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

n/a

End of Response

Investigator's Comments and Disposition:

12/2/2008 - Email to Customer:

Dear Troy Hunter:

Your email regarding the application of the Arizona Public Service Company ("APS") application requesting approval of a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility has been received. An opinion will be placed on file with the Docket Control Center of the Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission") to be made part of the record. The Commission will take your comments into consideration before a decision is rendered in the APS application.

Concerns raised from customers assist the Commission within the investigation and review of the application. The Commission's independent analysis of the utility and its request attempts to balance the interest of the utility and its customers. Commission Staff is very sensitive to the burden that can be placed on the consumer, and therefore does everything within its authority to protect the consumer.

Commission staff appreciates the time you have taken to express your comments and concerns on the proposed application. If you should have any questions relating to this matter, please call me toll free at (800) 222-7000 or directly at [REDACTED]

Thank you,

Guadalupe Ortiz
Public Utilities Consumer Analyst
Arizona Corporation Commission
Utilities Division

CLOSED

End of Comments

Date Completed: 12/2/2008

Opinion No. 2008 - 73567
